

With all due respect, applicants disagree that the Examiner's requirement is proper. However, in order to facilitate prosecution and to avoid a holding of non-responsiveness, applicants elect the claims of Group III with traverse. In the event that the Examiner does not withdraw the requirement, applicants expressly reserve the right to file a divisional application to the presently non-elected subject matter.

Applicants request reconsideration of the Examiner's requirement. An examination of all of the claims and the issuance of an Official Action on the merits of all the pending claims is requested.

Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 415-8564. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at drauth@morganfinnegan.com.

**AUTHORIZATION**

No additional fee is believed to be necessary.

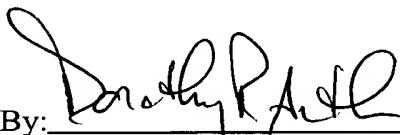
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 2026-4124US3.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response

timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 2026-4124US3. A DUPLICATE OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN

By:   
Dorothy R. Auth  
Reg. No. 36,434

Dated: August 27, 1998

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10154  
(212) 758-4800  
Fax (212) 751-6849